



September 2022

CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

3950 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546 • 616.949.5690

wheelchair accessible • www.crosswaygr.com

You asked for it!

Early this summer, as Pastor Manuel foresaw the end of his preaching series on the Book of Isaiah, our pastor invited the congregation to make requests for sermon topics for a season, stepping away for a while from focusing series of sermons on one Bible Book at a time.

Several CrossWay fellowshippers came forward with suggestions, and our pastor has now released his autumn 2022 schedule based on those promptings.

Get ready for topics! We are publishing the September schedule at right, carrying on from Topic #1: Purpose of the Parables (Aug. 28). We'll have more next month and the month after that.

Ready for fall cleanup?

Your editors picked up from Christian radio an unfamiliar ministry which we are thinking might appeal to our readers: *LovePackages.org*. Visiting that website, we find what appears to be a Christian ministry which is sending used faith materials to needy people all over the world.

It started in 1975 with a couple who were clearing out but did not want to toss faith-building books and tracts into a landfill. Learning of the lack of scripture

Upcoming Sermon Topics

Sept. 4 - End Times, Rapture, Tribulation > Daniel, Revelation

Sept. 11 - II Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 139:13-16

Sept. 18 - God's Word, What is it and how to study it

Sept. 25 - Biblical sexuality and the 'trans' community

Oct. 2 - Our home — heaven or earth?

and other faith aids in third-world countries, the Schmidts started shipping their leftovers to missionaries overseas. As word spread, boxes became shipping containers, and their urge became a Christ-based non-profit, which has so far shipped some 15 million tons of Bibles, devotionals, Sunday School materials, Christian DVDs, tracts and books to ports worldwide.

Check it out at *LovePackages.org*.

Coming Up at CrossWay Community

Sundays • 9:30^{AM} • Prayer, South Wing classroom

Sundays • 10^{AM} • Gather for worship together

Tuesdays • 1^{PM} • Ladies Bible Study

Tuesdays • 7 - 9^{PM} • Small group @ Hinkles' home

Wednesdays • 7^{PM} • Underhill Club (varied locations)

Sat., Sept. 3 • 9^{AM} • Men's breakfast @ Bob Evans

Sat., Sept. 3 • 9^{AM} • Women's breakfast @ IHOP

Sun., Sept. 4 • 6^{PM} • Monthly church prayer hour

Wed., Sept 7 • 7^{PM} • Elder meeting

Thurs., Sept 8 & 22 • 7^{PM} • Veurink/Le small group

Fri., Sept. 9 • 6^{PM} • Men's discipleship program, with hot dogs & chips

Sun., Sept. 11 • Children's worship resumes

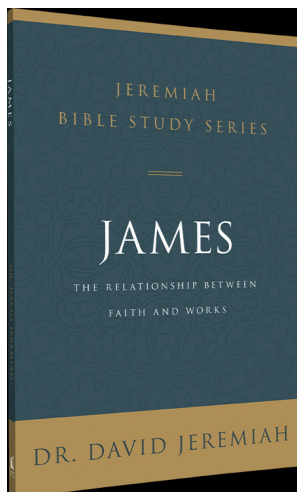
Sat., Sept. 24 • 9^{AM} • Heaven Rules women's conference, live-streamed from Indianapolis (see page 2)

Practical Wisdom

Ladies, your Bible study has resumed, and it's never too late to join the group. Tuesdays at 1 at CrossWay, the group is being guided through the epistle of James by Dr. David Jeremiah, a prominent evangelical mega-church pastor in California.

Enrich your life, and build new friendships. For more

information, contact Marcy Greenhoe, listed in our church fellowship directory.



For the ladies of the church:

Worth your time, worth inviting your friends . . . this day is for you!

The True Woman 2022 conference will be live-streamed for CrossWay ladies and friends on Saturday, Sept. 24, starting at 9 a.m. with a brief break for lunch. We will be gathering at the Grand Rapids home of Becky Alves, 2279 Granite.

CrossWay ladies are encouraged to to invite friends to this day of spiritual encouragement and fellowship.

True Woman is the annual, three-day women's conference staged in Indianapolis by Revive Our Hearts, the ministry of Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

The roster of speakers — some of whom will appear on the live-stream Saturday session — includes award-winning author and popular speaker Mary Kassian; author and speaker Dannah Gresh; pastor and radio host Chris Brooks (Moody radio 89.3FM at 1 p.m. weekdays); Bible study leader Kay Arthur; seminary administrator Karen Ellis; author Blair Linne and author, artist and singer Joni Eareckson Tada. Music will be led by modern hymnwriters and worship artists Keith & Kristyn Getty.



“There will never, ever be a time when God will not be God, when He will not be present, when He will not be in control, when He will not be sovereign over every detail of our lives.”

~ Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth



Heaven Rules.

Take Courage, take comfort. Our God is in control.

Two words are sometimes all it takes to upset and overwhelm us:

tornado warning, treatment options, work layoffs, family trouble, big decision, car repairs.

They take up so little room, such two little words, and yet

they can fill a whole day, the whole house, our whole lives with dread, panic and concern.

Heaven Rules is the two-word answer for every two-word worry,
for every wave of assault on your peace of mind.

Because Heaven's rule is God's rule, His rule over nations, leaders and nature;

His rule over covid, cancer and concerns about your kids.

Be a part of True Woman '22 and anchor your heart to the unshakable truth:

Jesus is King!



To know Christ & to make Him known

There are many ways to summarize what following Jesus, what being a disciple of His, looks like. In our own local church, we have a mission statement that I am sure most of you are aware of. It begins with “Jesus has called us to make disciples . . .” (You will see this statement on our “mission” wall very soon. We thank Leigh Basler, Jerry Pretzel and Bob Johnston for doing the bulk of the work on this project.) One of the ways I have seen discipleship summarized is in the title to this month’s *Current* article: **“To Know Christ and to make Him Known.”** As we look forward to our “ministry year” which typically starts in September and runs through the end of June, I would like to unpack this statement as a way to remind us what we are here for.

To Know Christ. First, perhaps the most obvious thing is to remind us that before we can make Jesus known, we must know Him. I really can’t effectively tell someone about Jesus unless I have some knowledge of Him, some relationship with Him. I must know Him. And, as it has often been said, we must know Him, not merely know about Him. It is possible to know accurately many facts about Jesus, to even have some orthodox theology, but if these truths do not transform our lives, it does no one any good.

I can tell you a lot about the Appalachian Trail for example, but if I have never hiked any of it, experiential life changing knowledge is missing. I would also rather talk and walk with someone who has actually walked the Trail than just read about it from a guidebook.

In regard to knowing Christ, I often think of two key texts: John 17: 3 and Phil. 3. First, in John 17: 3, we have perhaps the shortest “definition” of what eternal life entails. We read there, *“Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.”* What we read here is a knowledge of the Father and of Jesus, not merely a knowledge about.

Now for Philippians. Paul is contrasting his great spiritual pedigree before he knew Jesus, to his present and growing knowledge of Jesus. We read there, *“What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth*

of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. . . I want to know Him.” Can I honestly say that whatever I desire in life — in my heart, my emotions, my will, my choices, etc. — would pale in comparison to knowing Jesus?

When we truly and consistently desire to know Him above everything and everyone, then, I would submit to you, 1) We would be eager to make Him known, and 2) People would listen to us because our lives are demonstrating Jesus is our greatest treasure.

Now imagine with me having enjoyed the most fantastic meal you’ve ever had in your entire life. For me, perhaps, that meal would be a perfectly seasoned and grilled steak, with a baked potato. What do you do to complete the pleasure of that meal? You naturally tell someone about your experience. Likewise with Jesus. He is the most perfect “meal” you’ve ever had. You must share Him with others.

So now, let’s now talk about the second part of this saying: To make Him known. I’ll just simply say here, when is the last time you have shared the “meal” who is Jesus with someone else? Oh, I know, we might say, “I let my life speak.” Well, there’s some good in that, but your life is not the Gospel, and, let’s be honest: I don’t always want someone “reading” my life if their hope for eternal life depended upon me. I am inconsistent at best.

So, if it’s been awhile since you have shared the words of the Gospel with someone else, may I suggest you go back to the beginning? That is, “To know Christ.”

Do you truly know Him? Better yet, does He know us? (Matt. 7:23) Go back to getting to know Him. Enjoy Him. Listen to Him. Talk to Him.

Read His love letter to you (the Bible). If we truly know Him and truly enjoy Him, the overflow of our joy in Him will gladly be shared with others.

Again, as we approach the Fall season of ministry, may we ask for God’s grace, to know Jesus and to make Him known.

Planting deep roots

CrossWay Community Church has supported Keith and Judy Anderson as EFCA/ReachGlobal missionaries since 1983. Their decades of service to Spanish-speaking Gospel leaders are continuing into semi-retirement, as Keith now serves as mentor to the new director of ProMETA and the program staff, as well as consultant and cheerleader. This couple travels to Latin America for meetings and visits churches throughout the United States that support the work of this online education institute.



Recently, they attended a ProMETA meeting, as well as the ReachGlobal Latin America conference in Costa Rica. There, they met a new ReachGlobal missionary couple from Rockford, Michigan, who took their picture and sent it to CrossWay's missions coordinator, who had set up the two couples' meeting through email, knowing they would be at the same conference. Such fun. Keith and Judy are the couple on the right side of this picture, enjoying a meal with yet another couple attending the conference. All God's servants in league with their Savior to bring the Good News of everlasting life to a world sorely in need of hope.

Keith and Judy then came to CrossWay on August 28 and gave us a deep dive into their work over the years and going forward. ProMETA offers Spanish-speaking leaders for Christ an online Masters level education and is working through a partnership to take students deeper into the doctoral level. In essence, these leaders receive a seminary education without having to leave home. While they study, they serve, at minimal cost. And they learn both theology and practical application, which assists them in becoming servant leaders—not just knowledgeable teachers—with Jesus as their model.

Analysis of evangelicals in Latin America has revealed that they are significant in numbers, saved for eternity, but living very much in this world. ProMETA is determined to take them to a deeper level in their faith, hoping to inspire them to become disciples and follow in the way of their Lord.

ProMETA is also completing the transition from a missionary-led organization to the 21st century model in world missions, in which local believers take the leadership positions, with cross-cultural missionaries becoming their partners rather than their leaders. In May 2021, Javier Sepulveda became ProMETA's new director. He hails from Chile...and Ecuador and California, and now lives in Canada. Isn't Online Education wonderful?! He spent his academic life in secular settings and is now dedicating the rest of his life to training Kingdom leaders—just the man Keith sought to take his place. CrossWay continues to support Keith and Judy financially at a semi-retirement level.

Please pray for:



Keith and Judy's work in communicating the mission of ProMETA to church communities around the U.S.;



Dr. Sepulveda and his staff, as they develop and deliver curricula that make a difference in the lives of leaders and of those they lead;



Keith's retired missionary parents, who have just been moved into assisted living and are relishing their new home as a mission field;

*"Go therefore and make disciples of
all nations,
baptizing them in the Name of the
Father
and of the Son and of the Holy
Spirit,
teaching them to observe all that I
have commanded you.
And behold, I am with you always, to
the end of the age.*

Matthew 28: 19-20

To explore joining the prayer/communications team that enlivens CrossWay's support for Keith and Judy, please contact Pam Reed, Missions Coordinator.